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BOOK REVIEWS

MICHELANGELO. BY WILHELM R. VALENTINER. Limited edition privately printed by Frederic Fairchild Sherman. Price \$6.00.

Dr. Valentiner, the author of this essay is the Curator of the Department of Decorative Arts of the Metropolitan Museum and also Editor of the magazine, *Art in America*. At present, however, he is serving as a volunteer in the German army.

The essay which constitutes this volume was originally written in German to be delivered as a lecture and is translated by Mrs. James Sharkey. It refers especially to the late years of Michelangelo and is a beautiful as well as scholarly interpretation of an extraordinary personality. An interpretation, to quote the author's own words, of "a delicate soul incased in rugged armor."

Like all Mr. Sherman's publications this book is a work of art in itself, but the subject-matter is such that it deserves such treatment. To both the author and the publisher, lovers of art and lovers of good books will feel themselves indebted.

HOW TO SHOW PICTURES TO CHILDREN. BY ESTELLE M. HURLL. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, New York, Chicago.

To all those who are concerned with the training of children this little book is heartily commended. It is practical, well considered, and at the same time attractive. The author has a keen appreciation for art and does not in any way minimize the importance of its esthetic qualities. On the other hand, however, she does make a very strong plea for subjective interest in a work of art and demonstrates better than many essayists the necessity for such appeal.

ART TALKS WITH RANGER. BY RALCY HUSTED BELL. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London, Publishers. Price \$1.50.

This book records a series of interviews given by Mr. Ranger to Dr. Bell,

somewhat reluctantly it would seem from statements made in the preface, Mr. Ranger holding, with the majority of artists, that his mission is to produce art not to talk about it. Yet, likewise according to custom, when once persuaded to talk this painter has had much that was interesting to say. Probably students and painters will find the book more interesting and illuminating than the general public which concerns itself chiefly with results rather than methods. Quite naturally Mr. Ranger upholds the tonalist's viewpoint and his arguments are strong and convincing. What he has to say with regard to his own methods and practice is specially significant. And his optimistic convictions with reference to the attitude of the public toward art are noteworthy.

THE DECORATION OF SCHOOLS

A most instructive pamphlet dealing with the decoration of the rural school has been published as one of the Cornell Rural School Leaflets for Teachers by the Department of Rural Education, New York State College of Agriculture, at Cornell University. The author is Royal B. Farnum of the University of the State of New York. It would be well if this essay could be placed in the hands of every school board throughout the country as well as in that of teachers generally, for it is extremely comprehensive, dealing with the color scheme, treatment of walls, lighting, furniture, blackboards, pictures, and other objects utilized for decoration, the arrangement of flowers, etc., and is admirably written. An excellent list of pictures and casts, which may suitably be placed in the schoolrooms of various grades, is given, and, as an appendix, there is not only a bibliography, but estimates of cost and names of dealers from which all the essentials for decoration can be obtained.

The pamphlet is fully illustrated with drawings, photographs, and colored plates, and should prove of incalculable assistance to those who are endeavoring to decorate schoolrooms, whether in the city or country.